

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for purifying difructose dianhydride III (hereinafter referred to as DFA III), which comprises adding powdered active carbon to a DFA III containing purified solution, containing DFA III of the purity 90% or more, at a concentration of R-Bx 10-60, at a rate of ~~5% or less~~ 0.1-5% to the solid content, and after defecation, separating the liquid part from the solid part, concentrating the liquid part, followed by immediate crystallization.

Claims 2 and 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the average particle size of the powdered active carbon is 15-50 microns and the maximum particle size 200 microns or less.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the solid-liquid separation is carried out by at least one operation selected from filtration with a filter aid, the use of a membrane filter, and the use of an ultrafilter membrane.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process for purifying DFA III, which comprises chromatographing at least one of intermediates produced in the total steps for purification from a DFA III containing solution to a product crystals of DFA III ~~product~~, and adding the resulting DFA III fraction in at least one step for purification.

Claims 7-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A process for purifying DFA III, which comprises separating a syrup from crystals by crystallization in total purification steps from a DFA III containing solution to a product crystals of DFA III product, and after further centrifugation to eliminate fine crystals, adding the syrup to at least one step for purification.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A process for purifying DFA III, which comprises adding powdered active carbon to a DFA III crude solution for purification at a rate of 0.1-5% ~~5% or less, preferably 0.1-3%~~, to the solid content, the DFA III containing crude solution containing DFA III of the purity 60% or more, at a concentration of R-Bx 10 or more, and after defecation, separating the liquid part from the solid part, concentrating the liquid part, followed by immediate crystallization.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the DFA III containing crude solution is at least one of a DFA III containing solution, a DFA III fraction obtained by chromatography, a crystal or crude crystal syrup.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein the average particle size of the powdered active carbon is 15-50 microns and the maximum particle size 200 microns or less.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 14 ~~any one of Claims 14 to 16~~, wherein the solid-liquid separation is carried out by at least one operation

selected from filtration with a filter aid, the use of a membrane filter, and the use of an ultrafilter membrane.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 15 ~~any one of Claims 15 to 17~~, wherein the DFA III containing solution is an enzyme reaction solution produced by action of fructosyltransferase on inulin.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 18, wherein inulin of which the polymerization degree of fructose is 10 or more₂ is used.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 18 ~~any one of Claims 18 to 19~~, wherein inulin of which the polymerization degree of fructose is 10-60₁ is used.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 18 ~~any one of Claims 18 to 20~~, wherein an inulin fructotransferase (depolymerizing) is used as a fructosyltransferase.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 21, wherein as an inulin fructotransferase (depolymerizing), at least one of a purified enzyme, crude enzyme, enzyme-containing material, the cells, the culture, and its processed material derived from *Arthrobacter* sp. AHU 1753 strain (FERM BP-8296)₂ is used.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): Crystals, crushed crystals or granular crystals of DFA III of which the purity is 95w/w% or more, prepared according to the a process as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 22~~.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a DFA III containing solution, which comprises making a fructosyltransferase act on inulin of which the polymerization degree of fructose is ~~10 or more, preferably~~ 10-60.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the fructosyltransferase is an inulin fructotransferase (depolymerizing) derived from *Arthrobacter* sp. AHU 1753 strain (FERM BP-8296) ~~is used as a fructosyltransferase~~.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in ~~Claim 25~~ Claim 24, wherein inulin of which the polymerization degree of fructose is 10-60 ~~10 or more, preferably~~ ~~10-60~~ and the polysaccharide content is 80-100%, ~~80% or more,~~ is used.

Claims 27-28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A process for producing highly pure crystals of DFA III, which comprises producing a DFA III containing solution in a process as claimed in Claim 24 ~~Claim 28~~, chromatographing ~~chromatographing~~ the solution, and immediately concentrating and crystallizing the resulting DFA III rich fraction.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A process for purifying difructose dianhydride III (hereinafter referred to as DFA III), which comprises treating a DFA III containing solution,

containing DFA III₁ of which the purity is less than 70%, by a method selected from at least one member of the group consisting of treatment with yeast, defecation and filtration₁ and chromatography.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The A process for purifying DFA III₁ as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the DFA III containing solution is ~~at least one of~~ a solution produced by action of a fructosyltransferase on a fructose polymer or a material containing fructose polymer[[,]] ~~condensate thereof, syrup for crystallization and separation, and a mixture of one or more of them.~~

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The A process for purifying DFA III₁ as claimed in Claim 30 ~~any one of Claim 30 to 31~~, wherein the treatment with yeast is carried out by adding yeast to the DFA III containing solution ~~material~~, followed by incubation under aeration.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): The A process for purifying DFA III₁ as claimed in Claim 30 ~~any one of Claims 30 to 31~~, wherein the defecation and filtration comprises treatment with powdered active carbon and solid-liquid separation.

Claim 34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a fructosyltransferase, which comprises incubating a microorganism producing a fructosyltransferase on a culture medium comprising ~~containing~~ inulin.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 35, wherein a culture medium containing inulin at a content of 0.1-10%, ~~preferably 0.5-5%[[,]]~~ is used.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 35 ~~any one of Claims 35 to 36~~, wherein a culture medium, further comprising ~~containing an~~ a yeast extract, is used.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 37, wherein the culture medium comprising ~~containing an~~ a yeast extract at a content of 0.02-2.0%, ~~preferably 0.1-1.5%[[,]]~~ is used.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 35 ~~any one of Claims 35 to 38~~, wherein the aeration is set at 0.5-2 vvm ~~0.5 vvm or more, preferably 1-2 vvm~~ during incubation.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 35, wherein the fructosyltransferase is at least one member selected from the group consisting of inulase, inulin fructotransferase (depolymerizing), inulin fructosyl- β -1,2-fructofuranosyltransferase (cyclizing), and cycloinulooligosaccharide fructanotransferase.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The A process as claimed in Claim 35 ~~any one of Claims 35 to 40~~, wherein a large amount of enzyme is produced in a large-scale apparatus for cultivation of microorganisms, using a huge fermentation tank of 50 liter volume or more[[,]] ~~preferably 100 liters or more~~.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A biologically pure culture of bacterium ~~producing a~~
~~fructosyltransferase~~[[,]] Arthrobacter sp. AHU 1753 strain (FERM BP-8296).